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October 10, 1944

MARKET NEWS AND GRADING DIVISION MEMORANDUM NO. GM-35

To: All Meat Grading Supervisors and Graders

From: Fred J. Beard, Chief, Market News and Grading Division,  
Livestock and Meats Branch, Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: Estimating weights on commercially graded carcasses

Recent surveys of certificates currently received from all sections indicate that graders are over-estimating carcass weights of beef by approximately fifty pounds, veal by ten to fifteen pounds, and lambs by three to five pounds. Unless this practice is corrected it may well place our Division in the embarrassing position at the fiscal year end, of claiming to have graded more carcass meat by weight than has actually been slaughtered.

It is of utmost importance that immediate steps be taken to improve the accuracy of the unverified weights of meat carcasses as they are now applied on commercial grading certificates.

Effective at once therefore, each grader supervisor should carefully review commercial meat grading certificates for accuracy and instruct graders under his immediate supervision, where necessary, to take proper procedure so as to assure reasonable accuracy of the weights placed on commercial grading certificates before releasing them as completed.

Attention is also called to the inadvertence on the part of some graders in recording on certificates the correct number of cyphers in the total calculated weights. Such omissions call for careful auditing in Mr. Tobin's office, thereby requiring additional and unnecessary clerical help.

*Fred J. Beard*

